

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed December 17, 2007, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1, 2, and 4 through 14 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected. Claims 2, 4 through 8, and 10 through 14 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but the indication of allowable subject matter in such claims is noted with appreciation. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application as proposed to be amended herein.

Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 6,975,035

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 41 and 51 of U.S. Patent No. 6,975,035. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence in the Examiner's obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached are the terminal disclaimer and accompanying fee.

Objections to Claims 2, 4 through 8, and 10 through 14/Allowable Subject Matter

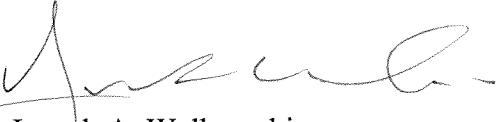
Claims 2, 4 through 8, and 10 through 14 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form.

Claims 1, 2 through 8, and 10 through 14 are now in condition for allowance in their current form due to the allowability of claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 2, and 4 through 14 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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